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MINUTES

Grafton Historical Commission
7:00 p.m., January 14, 2016
Grafton Municipal Center, Conference Room B

A regular meeting of the Grafton Historical Commission was held on January 14, 2016.

Chairwoman Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Ruth Anderson, John Stephens, Donna Girouard, Mark Fobert, Ann Morgan, Robert Aberg

1. Old Business

- A. Minutes – Ann Morgan moved to accept the minutes of September 24, 2015 as amended. Mark Fobert seconded. Motion carried: aye-6, nay-0. Ann Morgan moved to accept the minutes of December 10, 2015 as amended. Mark Fobert seconded. Motion carried: aye-6, nay-0.
- B. Bills – no bills.
- C. Stone Arch Bridge project update – tabled, Ray Meade could not attend. Funding requests are due February 25, and the hearing for the requests is March 24.
- D. Gravestone Restoration – John Stephens stated that the weather is not appropriate for erecting the stones since the ground must be unfrozen. The next reasonable time to try again is in April, 2016.

2. New Business

Hassanamesit research with Ellen Onorato – Barbara Hazzard of 50 Moroney Rd had called Ms. Onorato in the past. She was concerned about what she believes to be historical artifacts on her property dating back to the Hassanamesit Indian Village times. James Mavor and Byron Dix of Woods Hole, authors of "Manitou: The Sacred Landscape of New England's Native Civilization" (ISBN: 978-0892810789) had mapped

out her property in the past as amateur archaeologists. They had previously mapped the “Upton Cave” stone structure in Upton. They believed they had found what was the original site of Grafton’s Praying Indian Village. It was never corroborated by a professional archaeologist due to a disagreement in price and/or procedure between UMass and Ms. Hazzard. Ms. Onorato stated that Byron Dix’s notes on this topic are in the NEARA library. Ann Morgan stated that the Hazzard site is believed to be in line with the Sarah Boston / Peter Muckamaug site, as well as the map owned by Lee Robinson of these sites circa 1765. Ms. Morgan also stated that the town had received a phone call from the Hazzard trustee. Ms. Onorato believes Don Clark may know more about this site. Donna Girouard agreed to talk to Don and find out what he knows.

- A. 2016 Project Planning – Ann Morgan agreed to ask the Town Administrator if the Historical Commission could use the town planning office for preparing GIS data.
- B. Correspondence – None.
- C. Request for Comments – None.
- D. Other items –
 - 1) Mr. Robert Heavey, representing the owner of the former Wuskanut Mill at 6 Depot St, presented information on the current state of the mill and the possibility of demolition due to structural and fire safety issues. He requested support from the commission with regards to the issues. Ms. Anderson stated that the commission has no authority for structural integrity or fire safety matters.
 - 2) Hassanamesit Woods – Ann Morgran stated that the restaurant near the Stone Arch Bridge will reopen after renovation by the new owners.

3. Executive Session

None held.

4. Schedule Next Meeting

Ruth Anderson indicated the next meeting would be February 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

5. Adjournment

Ann Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting, Donna Girouard seconded. Motion carried 6-0. Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

List of Documents Used: None.

Minutes approved on: March 10, 2016

Submitted by Robert Aberg, Clerk, Grafton Historical Commission

